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(54) **Artificial airway device.**

(57) An artificial airway device, for use in place of an endotracheal tube to facilitate lung ventilation in an unconscious patient, is in the form of a laryngeal mask comprising an airway tube (10) opening into the interior space or lumen of a mask portion (12) whose periphery (14), which may be inflatable, is adapted to seal around the inlet (36) to the larynx (38), thus securing the patient's airway, permitting spontaneous or controlled ventilation and preventing inhalation of extraneous matter, means such as cross-bars (21) being provided to prevent obstruction by the epiglottis of the aperture (19) by which the airway tube (10) opens into the lumen of the mask.

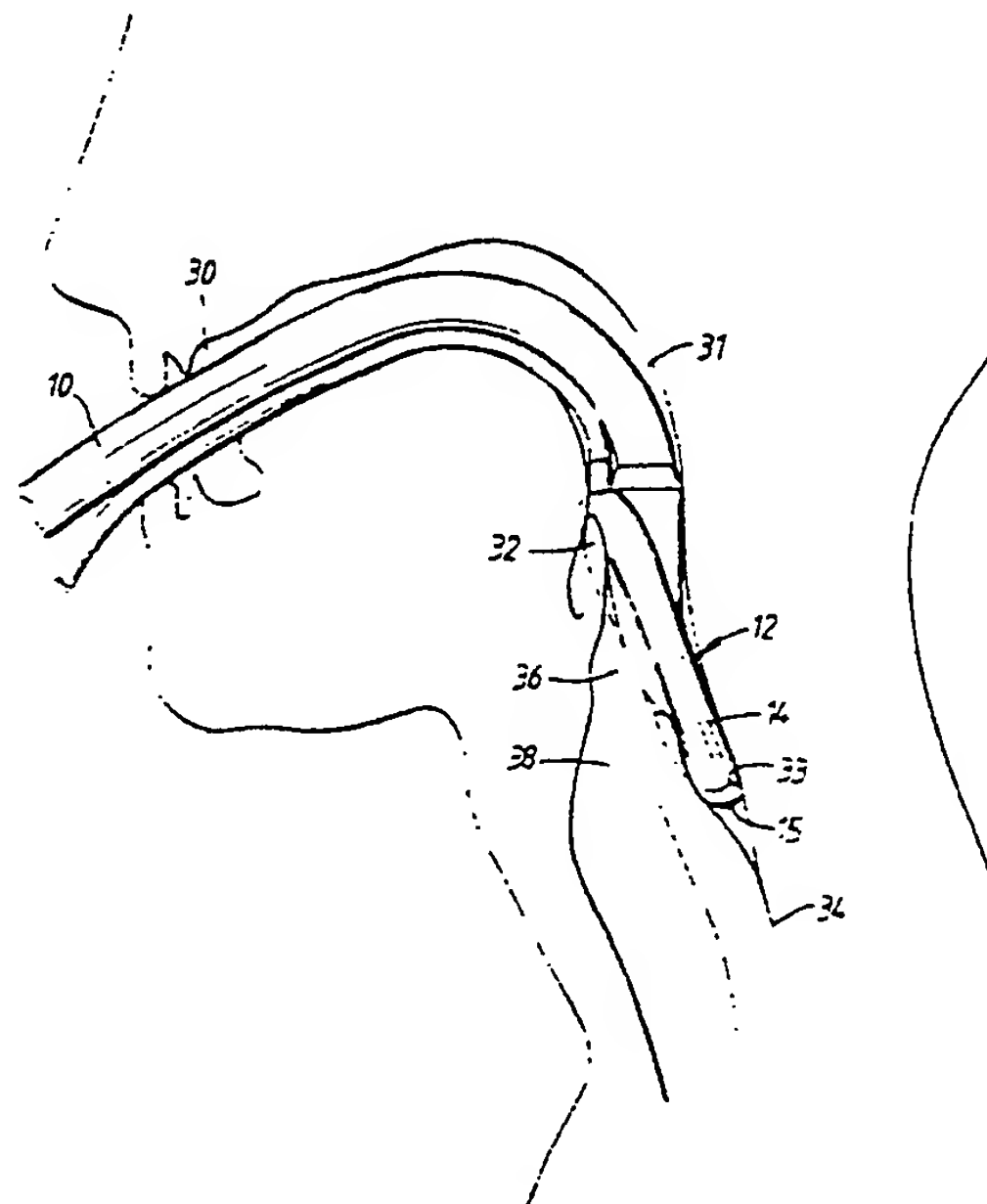


FIG. 4.



DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int. Cl. 4)
Y	FR-A-2 517 974 (BRAIN) * Figures 1-3; claims 1-2,6 * & GB-A-2 111 394 (Cat. D) ---	1-4,6,8 -9	A 61 M 16/04
Y	US-A-2 099 127 (LEECH) * Figures 1-3; page 1, left-hand column, lines 40-44 * ---	1-4,6,8 -9	
Y	US-A-4 227 534 (LA ROSA) * Figure 2; abstract * ---	9	
Y	GB-A-1 186 964 (TINDEL) * Figures 1,6; page 3, lines 24-38 * ---	6	
A	US-A-4 502 482 (DeLUCCIA et al.) * Figures 10-13; column 7, line 66 - column 8, line 9 * ---	7	
A	US-A-4 324 235 (BERAN) * Figure 1; column 3, lines 54-58 * -----	1	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. Cl.4)
			A 61 M
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 06-09-1989	Examiner JONES T.M.
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons ----- & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document			